



ESSER III FIN160 and FIN161 Application Overview

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) act included money for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER). This third round of stimulus and stabilization funds is known as ESSER III, as the dollars can be used in the same ways as the ESSER funds in both the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act (ESSER I) and the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriation (CRRSA, ESSER II). There is no nonpublic equitable share connected to either FIN160 or FIN161.

At least twenty percent of the LEA's ESSER III award must be used for activities that address learning recovery. MDE has separated the total ESSER III award into two components to ensure this minimum is met. FIN161 represents twenty percent of the total ESSER III award and must be used only for activities that address learning recovery. FIN160 is the balance of the award (eighty percent) and can be either used for FIN161-specific activities, for funding other [State Education Priorities](#), or other COVID-19 pandemic response purposes.

The LEA ESSER III funding plan using both FIN160 and FIN161 must address identified needs related to the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting impacts on student experience, access, representation, participation, and outcomes.

Safe Return to In-Person Learning Plan

As a condition of accepting the ESSER III award (FIN160 & FIN161), the LEA must develop, with community input, a Safe Return to In-Person Learning Plan and post it for public comment within 30 days of receiving the ESSER III award. LEAs received the award in SERVS Financial on May 20, 2021, so the deadline for posting the Safe Learning Plan and related public comment summary is June 19, 2021 (with June 21, 2021 being the next business day).

The Safe Return to In-Person Learning Plan *is not* the plan for using ESSER III funds. The requirements for the Safe Return to In-Person Learning Plan can be found in the [Interim Final Rule](#) and must describe *how [the LEA] will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff and the extent to which it has adopted policies, and a description of any such policies, on each of the following safety recommendations established by the CDC.*

The Safe Return to In-Person Learning Plan must be reviewed regularly, at least every six months, and the LEA must seek additional public comment on revisions. LEAs must retain documentation of the plan development, plan review, public comment, and summary of public comment.

LEAs will provide a link to their Safe Return to In-Person Learning Plan in the FIN160 application.

Two Finance Codes, One Funding Plan

LEAs must complete an application for both FIN160 and for FIN161; they are one award split into two finance codes. All of the public comment, family/community engagement, and (if applicable) tribal consultation requirements described in the FIN160 application must include both FIN160 & FIN161 activities/plans.

For FIN161, which is 20 percent of the total ESSER III award, LEAs must complete both a needs assessment and an asset map relating to measuring and addressing the impact of lost learning time. LEAs are encouraged to also use FIN160 for these activities.

For FIN160, which is 80 percent of the total ESSER III award, LEAs need to outline their public engagement in the plan development (inclusive of both FIN160 & FIN161).

Both applications allow for rapid approval when the LEA is using all ESSER III funds to support [State Education Priorities](#). For FIN161, the activities must be for *summer learning or enrichment, comprehensive afterschool programs, extended day programs, and/or extended year programs*. These FIN161 activities could be part of other [State Education Priorities](#) and funded with FIN160, too. LEAs should consider the full award (FIN160 & FIN161) as available to meet these FIN161 activities.

Assurances and Certifications

As a condition of accepting federal awards, LEAs must assure the rules, regulations, and reporting requirements of the applicable laws are met. LEAs are responsible for all of the assurances and certifications; failure to implement or meet them could result in a reduction, repayment, or other consequence from the U.S. Department of Education, the Minnesota Department of Education, or other oversight body.

LEA officials should read assurances carefully and document the ways in which they are engaging in the required activities.

Plan Development and Implementation Support

To support plan development and implementation, the Minnesota Department of Education will offer virtual informational sessions about [Funding State Education Priorities with ESSER III \(FIN160 & FIN161\)](#). LEAs are invited to join in any or all of these sessions as they consider local needs and potential solutions.

Date	Topic	MDE Contact	Meeting Link
06/01/21 and 06/02/21	Overview of the ESSER III (FIN160 & FIN161) requirements and application in SERVS	Alicia Waeffler	06/01/2021 at 1:00pm 06/02/2021 at 9:00am

Date	Topic	MDE Contact	Meeting Link
06/14/2021	Hands-on Learning Opportunities, Including Field Trips	Mary Barrie	06/14/2021 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
06/15/2021	Educator Workforce Topics: Teacher Mentoring Program; Grow Your Own Expansion; Educator Career Pathways	Tyler Livingston	06/15/2021 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
06/16/2021	Neighborhood Programs	Jackie Blagsvedt	06/16/2021 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
06/17/2021	Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), Post-Secondary Enrollment Option (PSEO)	Mary Barrie	06/17/2021 from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
06/21/2021	Full Service Community Schools	Dennis Duffy	06/21/2021 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
6/21/2021	Community Partnerships	Sheila Oehrlein	06/21/2021 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
06/22/2021	Expanded Access to Tutoring	Sheila Oehrlein	06/22/2021 from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
06/23/2021	Out of School Time Learning (OSTL)	Sheila Oehrlein	06/23/2021 from 11:00 a.m. to Noon
06/23/2021	Family Engagement Model	Lee Her	06/23/2021 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
06/24/2021	Indigenous Education For All and Ethnic Studies	Jane Harstad Doug Paulson	06/24/2021 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Date	Topic	MDE Contact	Meeting Link
06/28/2021	Language Access	Leigh Schleicher	06/28/2021 from 11:00 a.m. to Noon
06/28/2021	Student Support Personnel	Craig Wethington	06/28/2021 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
06/29/2021	Expanding VPK and School Readiness	Lisa Barnidge	06/29/2021 from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
06/30/2021	Kindergarten Entry Profile (KEP)	Lisa Barnidge	06/30/2021 from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.
06/30/2021	Multi-Tiered System of Supports	Bobbie Burnham	06/30/2021 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
07/01/2021	Expand or Add Vocational or Life Skills programming for Students Receiving Special Education Services	Lisa Barnidge	07/01/2021 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.